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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,938	07/13/2006	Peter S.N. Rowe	21105.0011U2	2665
23859	7590	10/05/2007	EXAMINER	
NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.			KIM, ALEXANDER D	
SUITE 1000			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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ATLANTA, GA 30309-3915				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/567,938	ROWE, PETER S.N.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Alexander D. Kim	1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Application Status

1. Claims 1-52 are pending in the instant case.

Restriction

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

- I. Claims 1-4, drawn to a method of treating hyperphosphatemia in a subject, comprising administering an isolated ASARM peptide that decreases serum phosphate levels, thereby treating hyperphosphatemia in the subject.
- II. Claims 5-9, drawn to a method of treating hypophosphatemia in a subject, comprising administering an isolated ASARM peptide that decreases serum phosphate levels, thereby treating hypophosphatemia in the subject.
- III. Claims 10, drawn to a method of treating or inhibiting osteoporosis in a subject comprising administering an isolated ASARM peptide to the subject in a dosage regimen that decreases bone resorption.

- IV. Claims 11-12, drawn to a method of treating a subject with a disease involving pathologically elevated levels of endogenous ASARM peptide, comprising inhibiting ASARM peptide activity in the subject.
- V. Claims 13-15, drawn to a method of treating or inhibiting ectopic tissue mineralization in a subject comprising administering ASARM peptide to the subject such that ectopic tissue mineralization is inhibited.
- VI. Claims 16-39, drawn to a method of inhibiting tumor growth in a subject, comprising administering one or more compounds chosen from MEPE, a peptide derived from MEPE, and an isolated ASARM peptide to the subject.
- VII. Claims 40-46, drawn to a method of identifying a subject with an increased likelihood of having or developing a disease or condition involving abnormal phosphate metabolism.
- VIII. Claims 47-48, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition, comprising an isolated ASARM peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- IX. Claim 49, drawn to a method of identifying a compound for treating a disease involving a pathologically elevated level of ASARM peptide.
- X. Claims 50-52, drawn to a method of inhibiting MEPE-PHEX binding in a subject, comprising administering an isolated ASARM peptide to the subject in an amount sufficient to inhibit MEPE-PHEX binding.

The inventions listed as Groups I-X do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The inventions are linked by the technical feature of a method of treating hyperphosphatemia in a subject, comprising administering an isolated ASARM peptide that decreases serum phosphate levels. However this technical feature is not special because it does not constitute an advance over the prior art by Gallieni et al. (2001, *J. Nephrol.*, vol. 14, pages 176-183) who teach a method of administering "403 mg sevelamer capsules with a dose schedule" to a hyperphosphatemia patient, wherein the sevelamer is a proven "effective phosphate binder" (see Abstract). The sevelamer of Gallieni et al. is encompassed by the claimed "ASARM peptide" because of the "isolated ASARM peptide" is defined as to encompass a polypeptide comprising "any ASARM peptide fragment or variant thereof" by the instant Application. Thus, the method of Gallieni et al. meets all limitation of claimed method of treating hyperphosphatemia in a subject comprising administration of an isolated ASARM peptide to the subject using a dosage regimen that decrease serum phosphate levels. Because the technical feature of method in Group I does not constitute advance over the prior art, Groups I-X lack unity of invention. Therefore, Groups II-X do not share the technical feature of Group I (i.e. the method) and do not relate to a single general inventive concept.

Election

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Notice of Possible Rejoinder

4. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)*," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain

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dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-5266. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleen Kerr can be reached on (571) 272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alexander Kim
September 19, 2007



RICHARD HUTSON, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER